

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An interference pigment based on coated flake-form substrates, comprising, on a substrate,

(A) a first layer of SiO₂ having a layer thickness of 5-350 nm,

(B) a high-refractive-index coating having a refractive index n of > 1.8

and/or

(C) an interference system consisting of alternating high- and low-refractive-index layers

and optionally

(D) an outer protective layer,

wherein the flake-form substrates are natural and/or synthetic mica, talc, kaolin, flake-form iron or aluminium oxides, glass flakes, SiO₂ flakes, TiO₂ flakes, graphite flakes, synthetic support-free flakes, titanium nitride, titanium silicide, liquid crystal polymers (LCPs), holographic pigments, BiOCl or flake-form mixed oxides, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The interference pigment according to Claim 2, wherein the flake-form substrates are glass flakes, mica flakes or aluminium oxide flakes.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) The interference pigment according to Claim 1, having a thickness of layer (A) of is 30-100 nm.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) The interference pigment according to Claim 1, wherein layer (A) is doped with carbon black particles, metal particles and/or colored pigments.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The interference pigment according to Claim 1, wherein layer (B) consists of metal oxides.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The interference pigment according to Claim 6, wherein the metal oxides are TiO_2 , ZrO_2 , SnO_2 , ZnO , Ce_2O_3 , Fe_2O_3 , Fe_3O_4 , Cr_2O_3 , CoO , Co_3O_4 , VO_2 , V_2O_3 , NiO , titanium suboxides, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) The interference pigment according to Claim 6, wherein layer (B) is titanium dioxide.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) The interference pigment according to Claim 1, wherein layer (C) consists of alternating high- and low-refractive-index layers.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) The interference pigment according to Claim 9, wherein layer (C) has a TiO_2 - SiO_2 - TiO_2 layer sequence.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) The interference pigment according to Claim 1, having an outer protective layer (D) increasing the light, temperature and weather stability.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of an the interference pigment according to Claim 1, comprising coating of the substrate by hydrolytic decomposition of metal salts in aqueous medium or by gas-phase coating in a fluidized bed reactor.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) In paints, coatings, automotive paints, powder coatings, printing inks, security printing inks, plastics, ceramic materials, glasses, paper, toners for electrophotographic printing processes, seed, greenhouse sheeting ~~and~~ tent awnings, absorbers in the laser marking of paper and plastics, cosmetic formulations, pigment pastes with water, organic and/or aqueous solvents, or dry pigment preparations comprising an interference pigment, the improvement wherein the pigment is one according to Claim 1.

Claim 14 (New) An interference pigment based on coated flake-form substrates,

comprising, on a substrate,

- (A) a first layer of SiO_2 having a layer thickness of 5-350 nm,
- (B) a high-refractive-index coating having a refractive index n of > 1.8

and/or

(C) an interference system consisting of alternating high- and low-refractive-index layers

and optionally

- (D) an outer protective layer,

wherein the flake-form substrates are natural and/or synthetic mica, talc, kaolin, flake-form iron or aluminium oxides, glass flakes, SiO_2 flakes, TiO_2 flakes, graphite flakes, synthetic support-free flakes, titanium nitride, titanium silicide, liquid crystal polymers (LCPs), holographic pigments, BiOCl or flake-form mixed oxides, or mixtures thereof.